My name is Shannon and I live in a very small village in China. I have grown up here my whole life and my family has lived here for generations. My village is beautiful with a lovely landscape. I remember looking out of my window every morning and smiling because of how beautiful everything looked. The grass was so green, the sky was so blue, and the clouds were so white. The view from my house reminded me of an image from a perfect movie or a gorgeous painting.

Things have changed a lot in my village these days. The area where we live has now turned into a coal-mining site and is one of the largest coal mining sites in China. We have been forced to move out of our home and, although we still live near by, we had to move to a new location. This new location does not have the same memories and sentimental value as the home that my grandparents built and lived in. The landscape of my village is no longer the pristine, beautiful place it used to be. The grass is no longer green, it is black; the sky is no longer blue, it is grey; and the clouds, I can’t even see the clouds anymore because of the pollution. My village looks like a depressing movie and is no longer a pleasant place to live.

The coal mining company likes to argue with the citizens, saying it has provided us with many jobs. This is true, however we are also becoming sicker because of the pollution, people are dying at a younger age and nobody seems to be their selves anymore. Everyone is always miserable and depressed. Of the three major sources of energy (oil, natural gas and coal) coal is the largest polluter of the three and is the worst for the environment. We villagers know the harm that coal can cause to the environment and to ourselves. We do not want to constantly be breathing in smog and be warned of acid rain. We as the citizens are extremely upset that this is what our beautiful little village in China has come to.